1	2	3	4	5 .	6	7
26.	Orissa	0	0	2	2	30.06.2007
27.	Puducherry	1	1	0	0	30.06.2007
28.	Punjab	1	0	3	1	30.06.2007
29.	Rajasthan	0	0	4	23	31.07.2007
30.	Sikkim	1	0	0	2	31.12.2006
31.	Tamil Nadu	0	1	8	1	30.06.2007
32.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	30.06.2007
33.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	5	34	31.07.2007
34.	Uttarakhand	0	2	1	16	31.07.2007
35	West Bengal	0	0	3.	1	30.06.2007
	TOTAL:	6	23	83	252	

Prices of essential items

2663. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been no decline in the rise of prices of wheat, rice, sugar, pulses, edible oils etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the chart showing comparative prices of the items prevailing in the last four years; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to check the prices to make the living of people easy and comfortable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Prices of foodgrains, especially of wheat, pulses and edible oil had registered increase during the previous year (2006-07). Prices have increased mainly due to mismatch between production and demand. Government has taken a number of measures to improve the availability of foodgrains and stabilize prices of essential commodities, as a result of which, the prices of Gram dal and Sugar have declined. Prices of Wheat, Rice and Tur dal are now by and large stable. The graphs relating to month end retail prices of wheat, rice, sugar, gram dal, tur dal, groundnut oil and mustard oil at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007.08 are enclosed as a Statement *{See* below).

(c) The important measures taken by Government to stabilize the prices for the benefit of the common man are given below:

(i) State Trading Corporation floated a global tender on 26 June, 2007 for import of 10 lakh Mts. of wheat and will import now 5.11 lakh Mts. *(+/- 5%)* during 2007-08.

(ii) To facilitate imports by private parties, period of validity of import of wheat at zero duty has been extended up to 31.12.07.

(iii) Government decided to release in February and March, 2007, upto 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic). However, only 1.1 lakh tonnes of wheat was lifted by State Government.

(iv) Export of wheat has been banned *w.e.f.* 09.02.2007. The ban will remain in force up to 31.12.2007.

(v) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have not been revised since 1.7.2002 for APL and BPL, while the Central Issue Prices for AAY has not been revised since the launch of the scheme in December 2000. The Central Issue Prices are as under:-

(Rs. per quintal)

	APL	BPL	AAY
Wheat	610	415	200
Rice (Grade 'A')	830	565	300

(vi) Customs duty on import of pulses was reduced to zero on June 8, 2006 and the period of validity of import of pulses at zero duty has been extended from 31.3.07 to 1.8.2007 and further to 31.3.09.

(vii) A ban was imposed on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006 (except export of kabuli chana *w.e.f.* 7.3.07). The ban on exports of pulses was initially upto 31.3.07 and was further extended upto 31.3.2008, *vide* DGFT Notification dated 9.3,2007.

(viii) NAFED, PEC Ltd., MMTC and STC would target to import 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of imports of pulses during 2007-08. Out of the total contracts of 10.40 lakh tonnes made by these agencies, 2.43 lakh tonnes have arrived up to 31.7.07.

(ix) Import duty on palm group of oil was reduced initially by 10 percentage points in August 2006 and by a further 10-12.5 percentage points in January, 2007.

(x) With effect from 13.4.07, the import duty on palm group of oils has been further reduced by ten percentage points, making the import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) at 50% and that on refined palm oil at 57.5%. The Government has also withdrawn the 4% additional countervailing duty on all edible oils. With effect from 23.07.07, the import duty on palm group of oils has been further reduced by five percentage points, making the import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) at 45% and that on refined palm oil at 52.5%. As a consequence, import duty on crude palm oil has been brought down to 45% from the level of 80% prior to 11.8.2006.

(xi) With effect from 23.07.07, import duty on crude sunflower oil reduced from 50% to 40% and refined sunflower oil from 60% to 50%. Import

duty on sunflower oil was reduced earlier by 10 percentage points in January, 2007 and further by 15 percentage points in March 2007.

(xii) With effect from 23.07.07, import duty on Soya bean oils reduced from 45% to 40%.

(xiii) Ban on export of skimmed milk powder *w.e.f.* 9.2.2007 valid upto 30.9.2007.

(xiv) Steps were taken by Reserve Bank of India to reduce. liquidity in the system by increasing the cash reserve ratio and repo rates.

(xv) Reduction in retail prices of petrol by Rs. 2 per litre and diesel by Rs. 1 per litre both in November, 2006 and in February, 2007.

(xvi) An Expert Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study impact, if any, of the trading in forward markets on the prices of the commodities.

(xvii) Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has on 23.01.07, directed the three National Exchanges, namely (a) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (b) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd., (c) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., to delist all contracts of Tur and Urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all Tur and Urad contracts at the closing price on 23.01.07. FMC has also stated that no further contract shall be launched without its prior approval and permission already granted to launch contracts in Urad and Tur stands withdrawn.

(xviii) FMC has on, 27.2.2007, directed all the three National Exchanges that no new futures contracts in wheat and rice shares be launched. In the letter to the Exchanges, FMC has stated that permission already granted for yet to be launched contracts stands revoked and that in respect of running contracts in these commodities no new position should be allowed to be taken. Only squaring up of positions should be allowed.

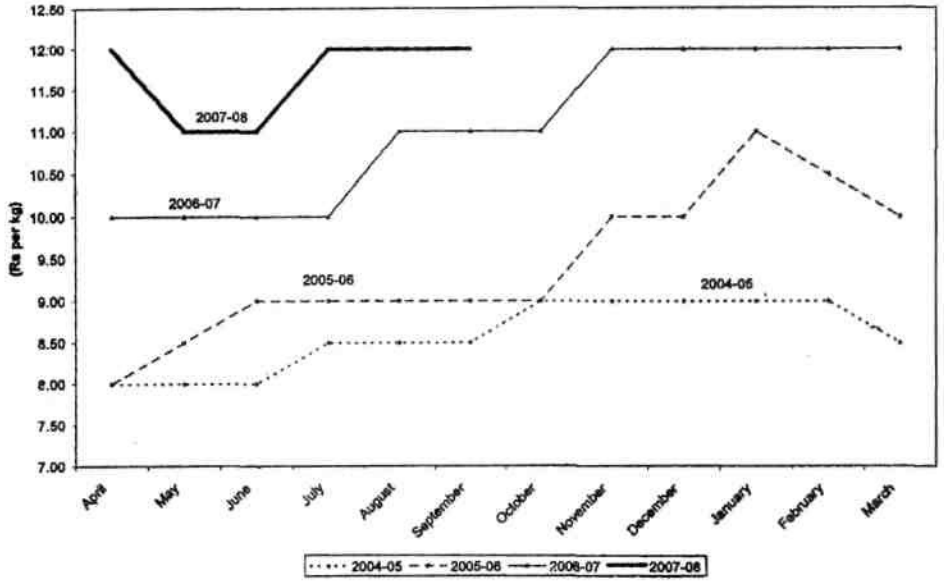
(xix) To contain volatility in the future's prices of wheat, sugar, pulses, etc. Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has taken required regulatory measures such as imposition of limits on open position, reduction in limits on daily price fluctuations and imposition of additional/special margins.

(xx) Keeping in view the prevailing price situation, the Central Government had issued a Central Order dated 29.08.2006 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke Stock Limits in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of 6 months. By virtue of this Order, the State Govemments/UT Administrations have been empowered to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure their availability to the common people at reasonable prices. The Central Order fixing stock limits in respect of wheat and pulses has been extended further for six months *w.e.f.* 1.3.2007 *{vide* Notification dt. 27.2.2007) and again for further period of six months *w.e.f.* 1.9.2007 *(vide* Notification dt. 31.8.2007).

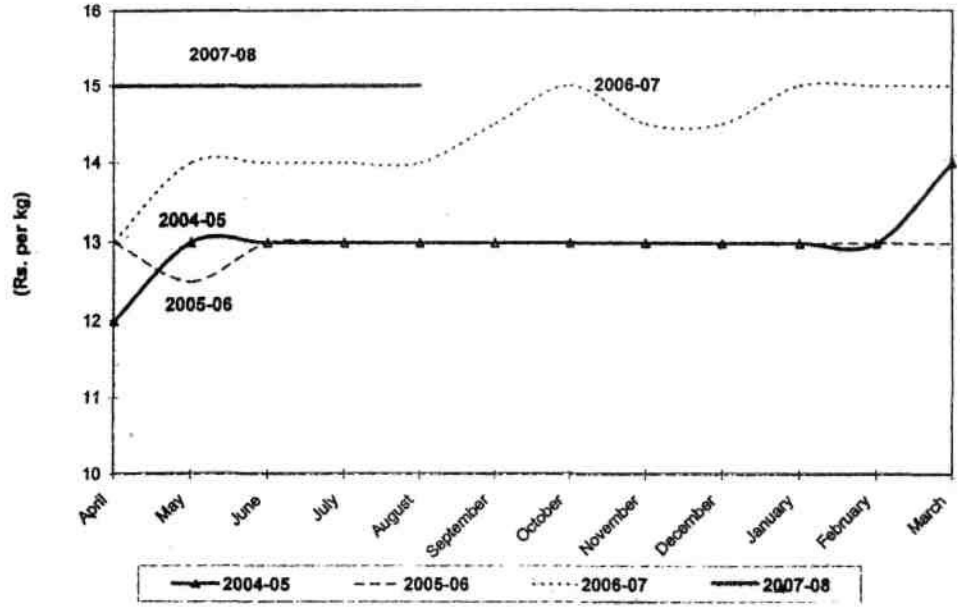
Statement

Month-end retail prices of wheat, rice, sugar, gram dal, tur dal, groundnut oil and mustard oil at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08

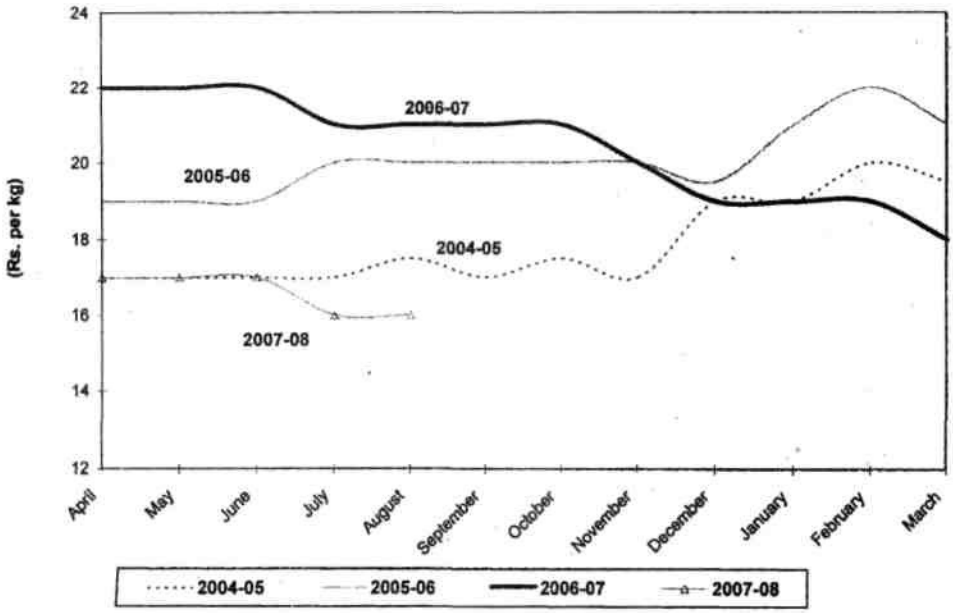
Month-end retail prices of wheat at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08



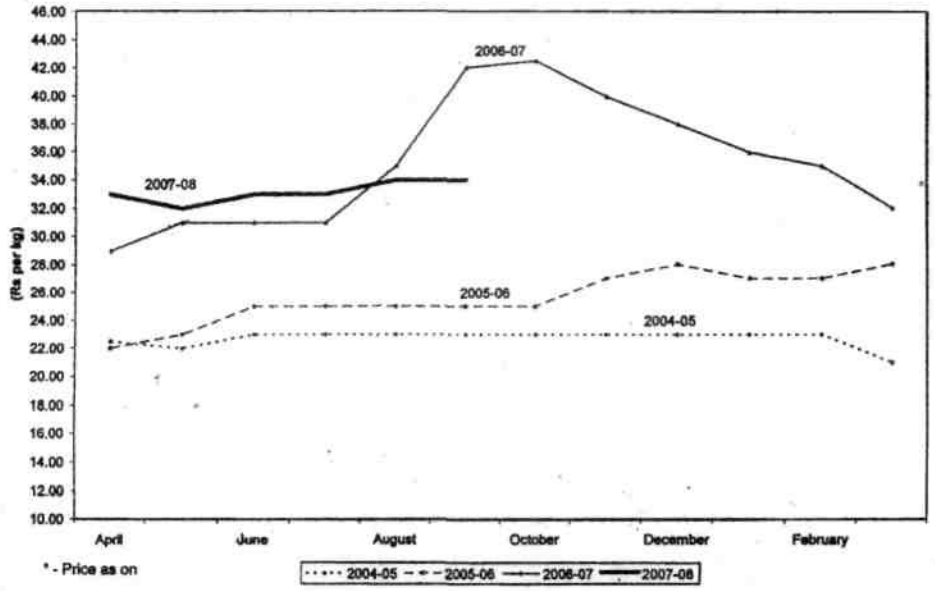
Month-end retail prices of Rice at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08



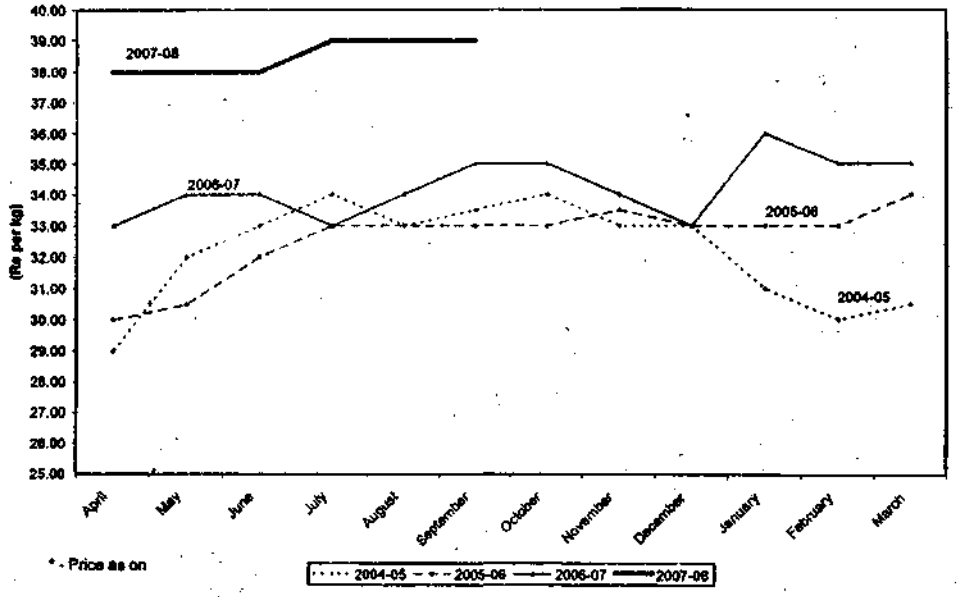
Month-end retail prices of sugar at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08



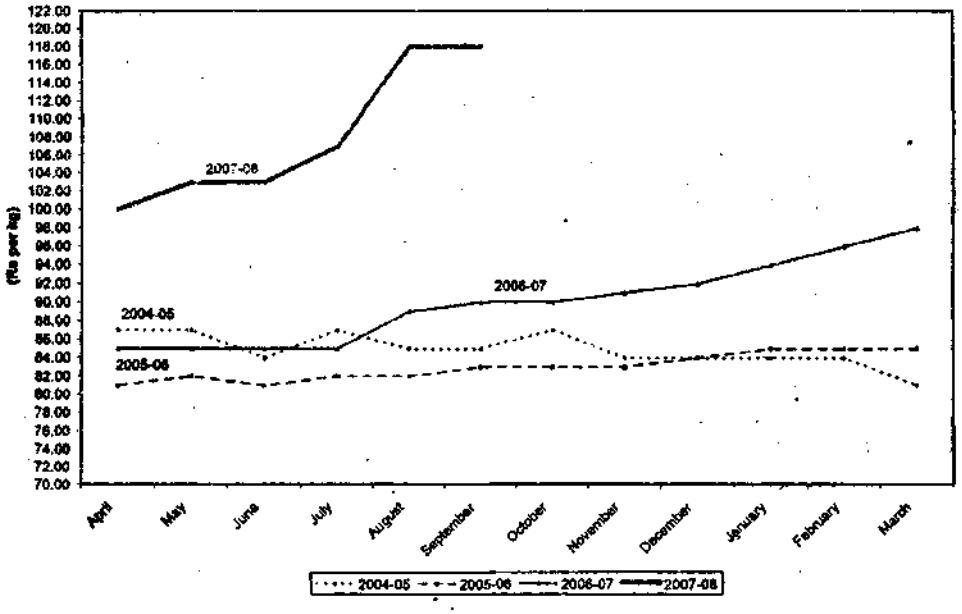
Month-end retail prices of gram dal at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08



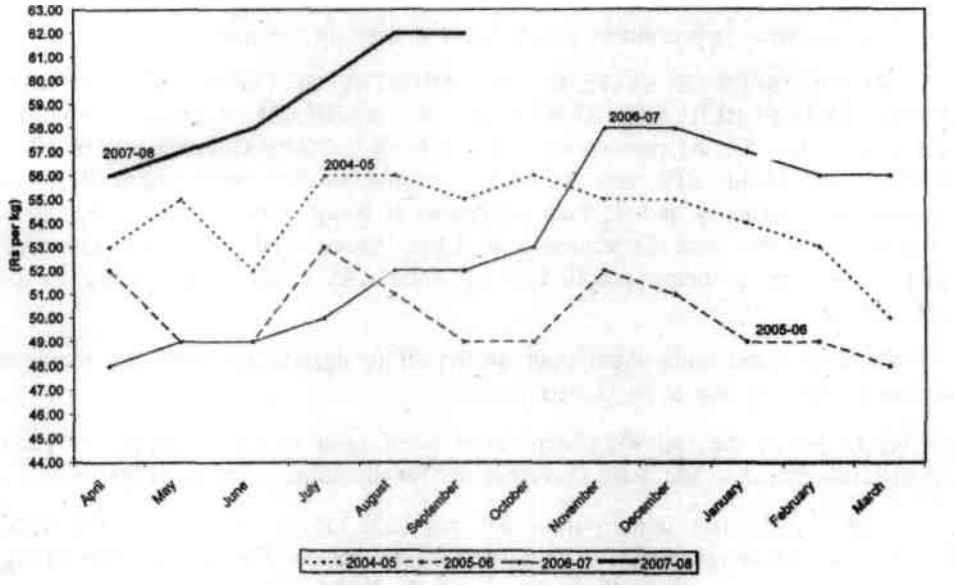
Month-end retail prices of tur dal at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08



Month-end retail prices of groundnut oil at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08



Month-end retail prices of mustard oil at Delhi from 2004-05 to 2007-08



Ban on procurement of wheat by private agencies

2664. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to private parties not to procure wheat from markets in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the farmers will not get better prices for their produce due to such a ban; and

(d) if so, how Government plan to compensate the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Supply of poor quality foodgrains

2665. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Uttar Pradesh and in the Capital city share or ration are being denied to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya the poorest of poor card holders;